

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A process of dyeing a molded article comprising the steps of
 - (i) immersing at least a portion of said article in a dyeing bath maintained at a temperature of 90 to 99°C and
 - (ii) retaining said portion in said bath for a period of time sufficient to allow an amount of dye to diffuse into said article, and
 - (iii) removing said article from said bath,
- wherein molded article comprises at least one polymeric resin selected from the group consisting of (co)polyester, (co)polycarbonates, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, polyamide, polyurethane, polyalkyl(meth)acrylate, allyldiglycol carbonate and styrene copolymers, and wherein the bath contains
 - (a) 50 to 90 pbw relative to the weight of the bath of water
 - (b) 0.1 to 15 pbw of dye
 - (c) 2.5 to 20 pbw of at least one plasticizing agent conforming to

$$R'--[(O(CH_2)_m)_n]OH$$

where R' is an ethyl, propyl or butyl radical,
m is 2, 3 or 4, and
n is 1, 2 or 3

with the proviso that where R' is butyl m is 2 or 4 and

 - (d) 5 to 30 pbw of at least one leveling agent conforming structurally to

$$H--[(O(CH_2)_m)_n]OH$$

where m is 2, 3 or 4 and
n is 1, 2, or 3.

2. The process of Claim 1 wherein the bath further contains a surfactant.

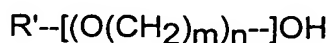
5 3. The process of Claim 1 wherein dye is disperse dye.

4. The process of Claim 3 wherein the bath further contains a surfactant.

10 5. The process of Claim 1 wherein dye is a water-insoluble dye selected from the group consisting of azo, diphenylamine and anthraquinone compounds.

15 6. A composition of matter containing a resinous component, a dye, a plasticizer and a leveling agent wherein resinous component contains at least one member selected from the group consisting of (co)polyester, (co)polycarbonates, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, polyamide, polyurethane, polyalkyl(meth)acrylate, allyldiglycol carbonate and styrene copolymers, wherein plasticizer conforms to

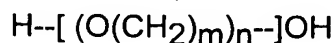
20



25

where R' is an ethyl, propyl or butyl radical, m is 2, 3 or 4, and n is 1, 2 or 3 with the proviso that where R' is butyl m is 2 or 4 and wherein leveling agent conforms structurally to

30



where m is 2, 3 or 4 and n is 1, 2, or 3.

7. The composition of matter of Claim 6 additionally containing a surfactant

8. The process of Claim 1 wherein the resin is aromatic polycarbonate.

9. A dip-dyed article prepared by the process of Claim 1.

5

10. A dip-dyed article prepared by the process of Claim 3.

11. The process of Claim 1 wherein the plasticizing agent is a member selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol butyl ether, diethylene glycol ethylether, diethylene glycol butylether, propylene glycol propylether, dipropylene glycol propyl ether and tripropylene glycol propylether.

12. The process of Claim 1 wherein the leveling agent is a member selected from the group consisting of diethylene glycol, triethylene glycol and 1,4 butandiol.

15